

Dear Colleagues:

We appreciate all that you are doing to support our mission and operations. I know that there are new challenges in your own lives as our complicated “new normal” extends well past earlier projections.

From my virtual office to yours, a few items of housekeeping:

I promised in my March 20th email to employees to provide a status update on campus operations by April 8. With the exponential spread of COVID-19, we have determined that ACM will **not** be open to nonessential employees, prospective and current students, and the community until after Maryland Governor Hogan’s current Order Number 20-03-30-01 is lifted. We will follow a similar approach at our Pennsylvania campus and extension site in concert with the Commonwealth’s own [Stay-At-Home directive](#).

I want to assure you that full-time and part-time employees will continue to receive full pay through Friday, May 15. We ask that you hold from taking vacation and sick leave during this time. Part-time casual employees and their supervisors will receive additional direction from Human Resources this week.

ACM is waiting for a firm commitment from its funding partners (Allegany County and the State of Maryland) and a review of next year’s enrollment projections prior to implementing employee salary increases. Our goal and that of our Board of Trustees is to provide raises and COLA adjustments at some time during FY21, pending our anticipated allocation from the State and County. Salary letters will be provided in June by Human Resources.

If you know of a student in need of financial help, please advocate for them to receive funds through the ACM Foundation’s COVID-19 Student Relief Fund. Email David Jones at djones@allegany.edu or Vicki Smith at vsmith@allegany.edu to request assistance. Describe the rationale, need, and amount, and be sure to include the student’s name in the subject line and student ID number within your email.

My great thanks to our Allied Health and Science instructors for arranging the donation of gloves, masks, gowns, and face shields to UPMC Western Maryland, and to our Respiratory Therapy instructors for their donation of two ventilators to the Maryland Department of Health. Through the Maryland State Emergency Plan, the ventilators will be sent to where the need is greatest.

With construction and essential ACM staff working in small teams, the Cumberland campus is undergoing renovations and construction. Signage for the Thomas Welcome Center will soon be in place, and the Center’s interior is 95% finished. A new roof is being installed on the Humanities Building, and the next phase of renovations on the Tech Building begins later this month. The softball field construction is complete with the recent installation of a scoreboard, and the pool has been painted ahead of schedule. New carpet has been installed in College Center’s Student Lounge and Loft areas, as the installation of a new lift makes the space ADA-compliant. WCI Building construction has also started.

I can’t tell you what next week or next month will look like for ACM. But I promise we will come out on the other side much stronger and even more resilient than we are today. In the meantime, I encourage you to reach out to me or your supervisor with your questions or concerns.

In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Thank you and stay safe.

Dr. B